AROUND THE GREEN

Keeping in touch with news and comment from the regions

NORTHERN IRELAND

This was my first visit to Northern Ireland and my thanks to Peter Powell of Iseki for transporting and hosting me. It really is a beautiful part of the world. Portstewart GC, now with an additional nine holes of distin-guished linksland added to the original fabulous 18, was the venue for the Iseki Northern Ireland regional qualifying event, under the expert management of Bernard Findlay. The wind was at gale



Northern Ireland Iseki category winners at Portstewart, from left, Neil Thomas, BIGGA, Alec Lafferty, Pat Devine, Eric O'Niel, Peter Powell, Iseki

force but golfers are hardy in these parts and without exception all those participating enjoyed the day and the excellent hospitality and catering. Results were: First class: 1st Patrick Devine, Carrickfergus GC; 2nd Sidney Arrowsmith, Royal Portrush GC; 3rd Godfrey Clarke, Dungannon GC. Second class: 1st Alec Lafferty, Royal Portrush GC; 2nd Ray McMaith, Royal Portrush GC; 3rd Tony Bradshaw, Malone GC. Third class: 1st Eric O'Niel, Portstewart GC; 2nd Paul McBain, Royal Belfast GC; 3rd Joe Millar, Knock GC. We look forward to welcoming them at Hillside on September 12th. This was a successful first event in this part of the world and I am sure the Northern Ireland round will go from strength to strength.

NEIL THOMAS

SOUTHERN IRELAND

The course at Forrest Little, for the Iseki regional qualifier under the expert management of Owen O'Connor (pictured), was in sparkling condition and an excellent day's golf ensued. The warmth of welcome at the club is something special - nothing is too much trouble and the catering throughout the day was excellent. BIGGA is now developing close relationships with greenkeeper members and non-members alike 'across the water' and in this connection the Iseki tournament makes a great contribution. My thanks to all concerned for



truly Irish welcome. Results were: First class: 1st Frank Donlon, Malahide GC; 2nd Paul Fitzgerald, Beech Park GC; 3rd Gerry Byrne, Westmanstown GC. Second class: 1st Edward Donlon, Rush GC; 2nd Frank Larkin, Castle GC; 3rd Owen O'Connor, Forrest Little GC. Third class: 1st Sean Murphy, Stackstown GC; 2nd Joe Walsh, Beavertown GC; 3rd Chris Nolan, Forrest Little GC. We shall look forward to meeting them all at Hillside on September 12th.

NEIL THOMAS

NORTH WEST

The Spring Tournament at Saddleworth GC was attended and enjoyed by 40 greenkeepers on May 15th. The day started with weather best suited to winter underwear and ended with much needed but bitterly cold rain. Nigel Potter had done a grand job on the course even though the temperatures on Saddleworth are always considered to be at least 10 degrees lower than low lying areas. Despite the inclement weather some good scores were returned and as this was our Iseki qualifier it certainly brought out the best from competitors.

The results were: Best gross: P Pearce 77-2=75. Best nett: F Platt 80-10=70. Other nett scores – 2nd: J Pearson 90-18=72. 3rd : T Lyons 90-18=72. 4th: G Jarvis 82-10=72. 5th: S Hartshorn 88-15=73. 6th: A Peel 79-5=74. 7th: E Stewart 93-18=75. 8th: B Turner 93-18=75. 9th: D Berry 82-6=76. Vets Prize: B Cross.

Out thanks to Saddleworth GC for allowing us the courtesy of the course, Mr Marner and his staff for the first class catering; and our trade friends, who as usual helped to swell the prize table. The next tournament will be the 'Roses Match' at Crossland Heath GC, Huddersfield, on Thursday August 22nd. I will require a team of 16 stalwarts to bring the trophy back to its rightful place, so please contact me if you are interested on 051 724 5412. BERT CROSS

SOUTH COAST

Details of the Section Summer Tournament are as follows:

Venue: Brockenhurst Manor GC. Date: Thursday 1st August 1991. Time: teeing off from 1.00 pm Closing date: 22nd July 1991.

34 **GREENKEEPER INTERNATIONAL** July 1991 The competition, consisting of a member and guest, will be the usual format of an 18 hole four-ball better ball.

Following a recent committee decision it was agreed to define a guest as either a member from our members own Club, or a greenkeeper from a different Club to their own.

Written entries, giving name and address, name of partner and current handicaps, together with the current fee, should be sent to: Joe Burdett, 948 Castle Lane East, Bournemouth BH7 6SP. Tel: 0202 483017.

I hear that Phil Nason has taken a greenkeeping job in Norway. Good luck Phil, perhaps I could book you for a winter lecture when you are under 3ft of snow next year! Maybe our editor would like an article on your greenkeeping experiences once you have settled down.

BOB DENNIS

NORTH SCOTLAND

May 16th was the day for our Spring Outing at Nairn GC, the event turning out to be one of the best supported ever with over 70 members, traders and guests playing and another handful enjoying the general good fun. Our sin-cere thanks to everyone concerned at Nairn GC for hospitality and friendlihung around for most of the day, it did little to dampen the spirits of golfers as they enjoyed playing a splendidly prepared championship course, ably presented by Ian Carson and his staff.

presented by Ian Carson and his statt. The successful players were: Scratch 1st Ian McLeod, Tain, 75. 2nd Kevin Peace, Peterhead, 76. Handicap 1-7: 1st Derek Roy, Nairn Dunbar, 79-7=72. 2nd Eoin Riddell, Royal Dornoch, 80-6=74 (BLH). Handicap 8-14: 1st Gordon Leslie, Duff House Royal, 82-11=71. 2nd Kenny Anderson, New-macher, 86-14=72. Handicap 15-28: 1st Stuart Donald, Newmacher, 90-23=67. 2nd David Sinclair, Royal Aberdeen, 94-16=78.

Trevor Mackay of Royal Dornoch was best apprentice with a nett 71 off 8 whilst John Taylor of Forres won the Vets with a fine nett 78 off 5. Steven Frost of Royal Aberdeen succeeded again in the division for members with-out official handicaps by turning in a 92-26=66, duly being allotted a 20 handicap! John Robertson retained the Trade Shield whilst Ian Carson used local knowledge (and his hole cutter!) to win nearest-the-pin at the 4th.

Howard Evans addressed members prior to prizegiving with an informa-tive talk on the benefits of a pension plan. The committee's thanks to Howard for making the long journey to help us. We hope he enjoyed this part of the world.

Members should note that our August outing at Peterhead has been brought forward one week to Thursday Sept. 5th, thus avoiding a clash with the Iseki finals. The lottery will also be drawn on that day. There is little truth in the rumour that Peterhead has snow in mid-September and I hope as many members as attended Nairn will make the journey

At this time the section has 130 members, though it is disappointing to note that around 20 have not yet re-joined.

GORDON MOIR

EAST MIDLANDS

May 16th saw the start of the East Midlands golfing programme with a bonny day of golf at Kibworth GC, a grand course delightfully prepared. As is often the case with these events the play was quite outstanding, the food delicious and the company just perfect. Thanks to all concerned. The best score was 74 from Paul Sewell, with the best nett being a staggering 61 from Craig Watt. Other scores were: (0-9) R Barker 75-4=71. P.Sewell 74-2=72. M Emery 88-8=80. (10-18) C Hare 81-14=67. S Fretter 86-18=68. S Goode 82-12=70. (19-28) C Watt 84-23=61. M Bindley 92-24=68. M Billings 93-22=71. Trade and Asso-ciates: I Toon 80-9=71. P.Fell 83-10=73. J Barsby 91-18=73. Well done all you winners and remember if you did not win something this time there is still the Autumn meeting at Rushcliffe GC on September 19th.



May I make my continuous appeal for news or Paul Sewell gossip for this column, no matter how insignificant. Please call me on 0664 61642.

GORDON MITCHELL

DEVON and CORNWALL

Third year unlucky was how the weatherman caught us at Westurf '91, though such inclement stuff doesn't stop the Devon and Cornwall members from attending in force and enjoying themselves! The whispers are reaching roaring pitch as the good word gets around about this excellent show and our thanks to all who make it thus, especially Gordon and Marion Child.

Our Iseki qualifiers tested their skills against the Tredegar Park course

(results later), with a special thanks to P J Flegg and Devon Garden Machinery for driving members to and from the venue – it was much appreciated.

May I make a plea to all who are tardy with subscription payments, reminding you that 34 people are still unpaid and seemingly do not consider the matter important. DO IT TODAY.

RICHARD WHYMAN

SOUTH WEST



Bob Gates (pictured) is getting sick at having his leg pulled. It seems that being chairman of the section counts for nothing when mischief is in the air. Indeed, he told me only yesterday that if one more greenkeeper offers a tongue in cheek 'congratulations Bob, I've never seen your course looking so good' only for Bob to have to grudgingly admit that he retired last Christmas, then we may be one member short for some considerable time!

Seriously, the course at Westonbirt, considering the awful spring weather, was looking very tidy and playing well. Out thanks to the bursar of Westonbirt School for allowing us the use of the

course for our annual John Ireland Greensomes on May 2nd. This event, which combines greenkeepers playing with amateur partners, has proved very popular over the years since its inauguration in 1976. This year was no exception with prizes keenly contested from the start. The bright idea is to find the biggest bandit in your Club and make him an offer he can't refuse...

The nett results were: 1st R Greaves and T Reaves (Bristol and Clifton) 60. 2nd D Dobie and M Coburn (Marlborough) 61. 3rd T Roberts and C Middleton (Lilleybrook) 62. 4th P Baynton and J Scoones (Long Ashton) 65. 5th I McFarlane and J Cooper (Saltford) 65. Best front nine: D Eves and W Smith (Painswick) 37. Best back nine: C Tozer and D Rendell (Bridport) 34.

Thanks to Sta Brite Supplies and Monro's for prizes and to mine hosts Ken and Pauline at The Carpenters Arms for catering to inner needs.

It seems that some of you did not receive entry forms before the competition and if this should happen again; please feel free to telephone (0285 651908) and ask for one. One thing – don't leave it until the night before an event – give me a week's notice otherwise I cannot guarantee a place.

PAUL WORSTER

SURREY

May I first apologise to you for the lack of Surrey section news in the last issue. I missed the copy deadline date. So far no one has contacted me regarding the two trips mentioned in previous issues of Greenkeeper International. What is the matter with you? Again I say – if you wish to visit Jacobsen's factory in July or Rolawn's turf farm in October you can still do so, but... you MUST contact me (025 125 4287) very soon or these events will have to be cancelled through lack of support.

You should have received entry forms for the Cresta Cup and The MacMillan Tankard and may I now request that you return then PROMPTLY. This enables food etc to be organised. May I further remind you that the rule still applies: once booked, if you then fail to play you will be required to pay for food ordered on your behalf.

The regional seminar is in Surrey this year, at Merrist Wood College on November 6th , and numbers are limited. If you are interested in reserving places please contact a committee member.

I'm off to Canada on holiday – tough life isn't it? I hope it rains steadily for the next two weeks, purely for the sake of your golf course – naturally!

PHIL BALDOCK

KENT

Our Spring Tournament and Iseki qualifying round was played on May 14th at Sittingbourne GC, our qualifying representatives at Ham Manor will be: 0-1 category Ian Rawlings, Alan Sheppard, George Brown and Steven Suttle, with David Goodhew in reserve. 10-18 category: Jason Bean, Peter Briscoe, Michael Love and John Millen, with Malcolm Arthur in reserve. 19 -28 category Phil Hurst, John Roots, Steve Philips and Nigel Stapley, with John Waterman in reserve. Well done, and the best of luck for the next round. In the morning medal there was a tie on 73 nett, with a count-back

In the morning medal there was a tie on 73 nett, with a count-back revealing Phil Hurst as winner with Peter Briscoe and Jason Bean in second and third. The scratch prize, as usual, went to Alan Sheppard with a 79. In the afternoon we chose to play a Stableford competition over the front nine, which is why I chose to play my best golf on the back nine in a friendly skins game. The results were David Vidler 19, John Millen 17, George Brown 16. The trade prize winner and undoubted star of the afternoon was Bernard Dibhams with 20 points.

Our thanks to David Horne and his staff for their hard work on the course. I understand David has had a long period of staff shortage and his work load increased by having the extra responsibility of maintaining the newly laid areas on the new part of the course. We could all appreciate his need to crack on with his top-dressing programme with an ever busy fixture list.

I hope David will pass on our extra thanks to the Club's staff for their hospitality and a great evening meal. It was a shame that some were not present to appreciate it at first hand, but those who missed it also missed the chance to pick up prizes – if you miss the prize giving, you miss your prize!

I would like to thank my partners, David Goodhew and Ian Rawlings, for an enjoyable day and though we didn't feature in the prizes – playing golf that ranged from dire to exceptional – it's the taking part and comradeship that counts. Last – thanks to our usual trade members for their continued support and a reminder that our next event is the Summer Tournament at North Foreland GC on July 17th. PAUL COPSEY

NORTHERN

Not a great deal happening around our section at the moment, which gives me a chance to mention education.

I recently attended a regional board meeting, where we were informed that each Club in the region had been sent a letter regarding greenkeeper education, outlining what is available to BIGGA members. Our administrator has asked me to ask you to find out your Clubs views and opinions about such greenkeeper training. I try to attend as many seminars and exhibitions as I can, as well as the management courses at Aldwark Manor, and they are really excellent. Members who do not attend are really missing out. I realise some Clubs do not support their staff on education, but PLEASE take the trouble to ask their opinions regarding the letter mentioned. Then let me know.

Finally, there are still a few places left for the Roses Match and the Autumn Tournament.

BOB LUPTON

SOUTH WALES

Our annual competition for the Jacobsen Cup and Browns Shield was held on May 15th, the day being glorious, which in this job is a bonus when playing, but not when working.

The competition was well attended with 24 players contesting for glory and a mere handful falling by the wayside. The results were: 1st (Jacobsen Cup and Tankard) Dennis Jones – nett 69 on countback. A gross 81 was sufficient for Graham Cox to take the Browns Shield and Tankard and a nett 69 won Anthony Miller the Waycott Cup and Tankard.

A raffle was held to swell funds and Dennis Jones was again a winner, this time a shirt donated by SISIS. Anthony Jones won a bottle of scotch donated by Munro's and Les Hallett won a bottle of sherry donated by Avoncrop. Our thanks to sponsors, Munro's Horticulture and Keith Morgan of Usk, (Jacobsen Dealers) together with contributions to the prize table from Munro's, Keith Morgan, SISIS and Avoncrop. Without their help our section would not be thriving as well as it is.

Thanks are due to Glamorgan GC for their unfailing courtesy to us and to Michael Williams and his crew for the splendid course preparation.

PHILIP SWAIN

AYRSHIRE

The Ayrshire group at Bogside Golf Club

Our Spring Meeting was held at Irving Bogside on May 20th, where an excellent days' golf was enjoyed, though by a disappointingly small turn-out. Could this possibly be due to the very difficult greenkeeping conditions 'enjoyed' in our area over the past few weeks? What we lacked in quantity was replaced by quality, both in standard of play and the Bogside course, ably presented by head greenkeeper Derek Wilson, who did wonders when one considers the vagaries of recent weather. Results were: Scratch: Gary Briden, Turnberry, 1st Class: D Gray, Kyle and Carrick. A Patterson, Powfoot. G Brown, Turnberry. 2nd Class: C Taylor, Powfoot. R Bruce, Stewarts. G Heron, Turnberry. New member: J Johnstone, Turnberry. Trade: D Duffy, Stewarts.

Will all section members make sure that lottery tickets are returned in good time (early July) to ensure they all get into the draw for The Open.

I'm just back from the Iseki Scottish finals at Fraserburgh and must tell you what a delight it was to play on such a natural old links course. Even the new holes being built have been kept in tune with the natural terrain. Architects please take note. Those of you who missed out this year on the Iseki Championship will just have to try harder in '92, otherwise you'll not get to play on gems like Fraserburgh.

DUNCAN GRAY

EAST ANGLIA

Channels GC saw our first medal round for many a year and disaster is the word that springs to mind. Must have been a force ten blowing and it was always against us!

I managed a ten on one hole to equal Simon, who was playing equally scintillating golf. Hot Toddy managed several 'Barnes Wallace's' across • 41



41 • 3 Graham Robbins 79-8=71. 4 Stuart Taylor 73-1=72. 2nd Class: 1 David Montgomery 76-12=64. 2 Kenny Anderson 81-14=67. 3 Stuart Sime 85-15=70. 4 David Sinclair 86-15=71. 3rd Class: Wilson Morrison 93-24=69. 2 Alasdair Fraser 96-24=72. 3 Stuart Donald 94-22=72. 4 Steven Frost 94-20=74.

The team prize was won by the North Section with a total of 571, just pipping the West with 576.

Peter Powell gave a special prize to Ian McDougall of Crieff for determination. His car expired 60 miles from Fraserburgh at 9.30am, but after seeing it into the hands of a motoring organisation, he arrived by taxi at 1pm. Ian's 80-6=74 was not a bad score in the circumstances. All in all it was a good day and as I said last year, with the road system we now have, it is not nearly as far as it sounds.

ELLIOTT SMALL

NORTH EAST

Our annual Spring Competition was held at Bamburgh Castle on April 25th, the first time we had played there, though hopefully not the last. Set in idyllic surroundings with the famous castle behind us and miles of golden sands in the distance, this course is a 'must' for all who have not experienced its charms. Our thanks then to the greenkeeping staff for such excellent preparation and to the committee for granting us courtesy. The event, sponsored by Ryton Gravel Co; Turf Care Supplies; Bland Short; Stewarts; Thompsons Quarries and Maxwell Hart, was a great success and we acknowledge with thanks their generosity.

AROUND THE

Results: Best Gross: M Simpkin, Parklands GC, 75. Best Nett; S Cram, Slayley GandCC, 89-24=65. Assistant's Cup: J Pattinson, Gosforth GC 89-20=69. Leading Nett scores: M Gunn 77-7=70. G Baxter 89-18=71. P Robison 77-6=71. C Patterson 76-5=71.

Our congratulations to Craig Kilgour, 19, assistant greenkeeper at Ponteland GC, on winning the Durham County 72 hole Stroke Championship.

Membership of the North East section continues to rise, now up to nearly 90, due in no small part to the efforts made in spreading the good word about the benefits of joining BIGGA. Keep them coming in!

JIMMY RICHARDSON



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